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Loeal Population Shifting In Age

For a number of years after World War II, up to 1960, residents of Appomattox County were getting younger and younger. Collectively, that is. Not individually.

Year by year, the median age of the local population, which is the level at which there are as many persons above that age as below it, had been dropping, in line with the changes that were taking place elsewhere.

It was due to the high birth rate experienced after the war. The sharp increase in the number of children had the effect of lowering the overall age level.

After 1960 there was a change locally. The median started moving upward despite the fact that, throughout the country as a whole, the age level continued to drop, falling from 29.4 years in 1960 to 27.9 in 1970.

Since then, however, there has been a reversal in the national trend. The age level has been rising in most areas.

Appomattox County saw its median age go from 28.3 years in 1960, as determined by the census taken at that time, to 29.9 years in 1970.

More recently, as indicted by the latest figures, it has been going up. It is approximately 31.4 years at the present time.

Elsewhere in the United States, the median is now 28.8 years and, in the State of Virginia, 29.1.

Nationally, the sudden end to the growing-younger process is tied up with the drop in the birth rate. The figures show that women in their 20's are having fewer children than previous generations of women had at their age.

According to a Government survey, this trend is likely to continue for some time. the average wife, it shows, intends to have 2.17 children in her lifetime, down from 2.4 in 1970.

The extent to which this relates to the local area is to be seen in the Census Bureau's reports on the number of children in the population under the age of five per 1,000 women of child-bearing age. This is called the "fertility ratio."

In 1960, Appomattox County's fertility ratio was given as 455. It is currently estimated at

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The Pastor Speaks

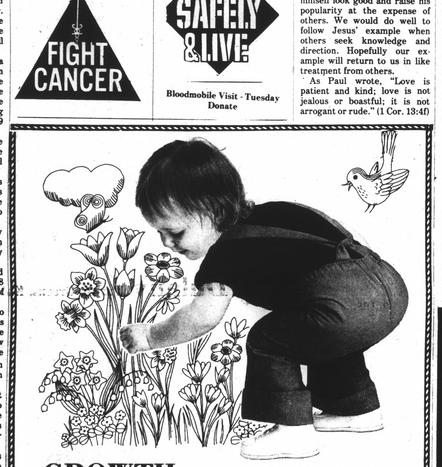
Kindness is a fundamental virtue in living and working with others. Kindness is a way of relating to others in a loving, caring way. The lack of kindness hinders our fellowship and growth in knowledge.

Have you ever been in the presence of someone so intellectually smart that you felt uncomfortable and were reluctant to speak or ask a question? You may blame the feeling on your fear of seeming to be ignorant. You may call it an inferiority complex. That will be a true feeling of reluctance if the other has ever belittled you for your ignorance.

Many students of all ages are turned away because of such experience. One story from the New Testament that has helped my personal relations with others, and relates to this matter, is the account of Nicodemus meeting in secret with Jesus. Nicodemus had a question that he feared would reveal his ignorance, so he went to Jesus at night. (John 3:1f) Nicodemus was a learned man in theology, history and religious law. Jesus knew that. Instead of Jesus ridiculing Nicodemus, Jesus understood his need and was kind.

Jesus was kind because he was not insecure in his relation to God. He had no need to make himself look good and raise his popularity at the expense of others. We would do well to follow Jesus' example when others seek knowledge and direction. Hopefully our example will return to us in like treatment from others.

As Paul wrote, "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude." (1 Cor. 13:4f)



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INTO THE DEEP!

Lesson for January 23, 1977

Background Scripture:
Mark 1:16-20; 3:13-19;
Luke 5:1-11; 6:12-16; 9:1-6.
Devotional Reading:
John 17:6-19.

Rev. Althouse

If you had been Simon Peter, what would you have done?

After all, you had labored all night and had caught not one fish. That was disappointing, but not surprising for sometimes the fishing was good and other times it was not good at all. Last night had been one of the latter times.

Returning to shore at last you joined a throng of people who had gathered to hear the Nazarene prophet whom some were suggesting was the Messiah. In fact, when the crowds became so large, you agreed to let this man use your boat, pushing off from shore a few yards where he proceeded to speak to his audience.

Let down your nets

His words had challenged and intrigued you. Whatever or whoever he was, this man was a powerful man of the spirit. It seemed that God himself spoke through him. In time it seemed you hung on every word. But when at last he finished speaking to the crowd, he turned to you with his amazing command: "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4)!

Who did this Nazarene think he was? Did he know more about fishing than you and your brothers? Was he trying to make you look foolish? Was he after all just another wild-eyed fanatic?

So what would you do if the Master were to say something similar to you? *"Launch out into the deep!"* — plant that barren field one more time — take apart that automobile engine and you will find the problem this time — don't mind the rejection slips, but send that book to another publisher — give your friend yet another chance — *...and let down your nets for a catch!"*

Simon Peter's reaction was understandable: "Master we toiled all night and took nothing" (5:5). But when Jesus does not really, Simon Peter finds himself saying: "But at your word I will let down the nets."

Breaking nets!

So, partly because this man has spoken with such authority and partly because you want to see for yourself whether this man has the powers other ascribe to him, you and your co-workers do as he says. Almost immediately your nets are full of fish and, in fact, there are so many of them that the nets are breaking under the strain! Soon you are beckoning to others for help and before you are finished there are two boats filled with freshly caught fish!

Perhaps "terrified" would be more accurate as you ponder this man's fantastic power and conclude that here is truly a man sent from God, perhaps the very Son of God! If such a man knew where to tell you to cast your nets, certainly he can see also into your sinful secret heart! "Depart from me," you exclaim, "for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" (5:8).

But his purpose was not to frighten you with his judgement, but to use his power to bring something truly worthwhile into your life: "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men" (5:10). This man sees not only your soiled spirit, he sees something even you cannot see: your God-given potential!

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Can You Identify This Bird?

Courtney Mann, Roue 1, Appomattox discovered this unusual bird on his farm during late summer. This week it was feeding with his chickens and he shot it. The bird has a black body and black and white wings. Although it resembles a crow Courtney is asking does anyone know what kind of bird it is.

STONEWALL

And there came a voice from heaven, saying Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Mark 1:11

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jones and Richard visited Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Wheeler Sunday afternoon.

Mr. W. B. Bates was buried from Robinson Funeral Home Tuesday. He was reared at Spout Spring. We extend sympathy to his wife and sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Spencer, of Virginia Beach, spent the week end with her parents, Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Mitchell.

The weather is so cold around that there has been very little traveling. He who has a fire had better sit by it.

Pamplin

Mr. and Mrs. David Savitz, of Roanoke, returned home last Sunday from Columbia, S.C. David's father passed away after a long illness. Our sympathy to extended to the family.

A large crowd of friends and relatives attended the funeral of Mrs. Maud Ranson last Saturday at Robinson Funeral Home. Our sympathy to the family.

Friends of Mrs. Charlotte Page will entertain with a stork shower Saturday night, Jan. 22, at Elon Baptist Church.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA MEETING CANCELLED

The Appomattox Primary School Parent-Teacher Association meeting scheduled for tonight, Thursday, has been cancelled due to weather conditions.

Central Virginia Arthritis Foundation Announces Events

The Central Virginia Branch of the Arthritis Foundation would like to announce upcoming events in January.

On January 22, WLGM (1320 on your dial) is conducting an Arthritis Radiothon from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds will go to support the Diagnostic Arthritis Clinic which is held monthly. Pledges may be made by phoning 847-6666 or by contributing in person at MacDonald's on Old Forest Road in Lynchburg.

A drawing for a three-speed, 26" bicycle will be made at the conclusion of the radiothon at 4 p.m. Coupons are available at MacDonald's and may be deposited at the Old Forest Road location all during the week. **Your dollars will help combat the Nation's No. 1 Crippler, Arthritis.**

Can You Eat A Tree?

Everyone knows you can't eat a tree. Right? Wrong! A new brand is now being marketed by ITT Continental Baking Company called "fresh horizon," which contains 400 percent more fiber than wheatbread and 33 percent fewer calories than whitebread. So what? The bread consits of 7.5 percent non-nutritive crude tree fiber!

What else is new? How about a new tobacco supplement made from a tree fiber base! One European firm is already test-marketing the new cigarettes (or "false fags" as they are nicknamed) in Germany and Switzerland. Can't you see the new ads - - "Should a gentleman offer a white oak to a lady?"

Another new use for trees currently being researched is that of fuel for our automobiles. One particular genus of trees, similar to rubber trees, produces a latex which is a hydrocarbon - like petroleum. The cost of the oil obtained from the trees is estimated to be between $2 - $5 per barrel. A one-million-square-mile forest of such trees could supply our current petroleum needs.

Besides these and other new uses being found for trees today, consider the many products made from trees used in your daily life. From the basic structure in your house to the cabinets in your kitchen, to the paneling on your walls, chances are they are all made from wood.

But there's a lot more to trees than wood. How about food containers, newsprint, and turpentine? These are obvious. But did you also know that photographic film is partly made from wood and wood chemicals are found in suntan lotions, cosmetics, inks, paints, adhesives, plastics, and even ice cream flavoring.

According to Westvaco forester Craig Guernsey, (in Lewisburg, West Virginia) there are over 5,000 different items made from solid wood on the market today and paper in so many forms that there are estimates that range up to 100,000 different items.

It is estimated that each of us uses the wood from a 100 foot tree each year in the form of various products in our everyday life.

The old tree ain't what it used to be! Please pass the white oak and easy on the mayo.

VEC Announces New Office Hours

The local office of the Virginia Employment Commission, located at 1912 Memorial Avenue, announced today that beginning Monday, January 31, 1977, the regular office hours for service to the public will be from 8:15 A.M. to 4 P.M., Monday through Friday of each week. This is an adjustment to the prior schedule which was 8:15 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday.

In commenting on this change Mr. J. H. Riddel, VEC office Manager, indicated that this modification is being initiated in order to provide better and more effective service to all citizens. He further commented that the VEC Office, while continuing to function from 8:15 A.M. to 5 P.M. will close to the public at 4 P.M. for the purpose of allowing the VEC staff an hour each day to complete its administrative paperwork and, therefore, be prepared on subsequent days to provide more effective service to individuals visiting the VEC Office. In this action, Mr. Riddel continued, it is anticipated that there will be less waiting time for all clients and individual interests, whether for claims or employment service, will be more effectively handled.

The starting date for this revised schedule is Monday, January 31, 1977.

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